

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20

RSR-01 /141 W

----- 070790

R 151632 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8759

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

USEC BRUSSELS 343

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA (DUNCAN, ROBERT), ETRD, EEC, ECA

SUBJECT: WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION

1. DURING DUNCAN VISIT LAGOS, SUBJECT ISSUE DISCUSSED SEPARATELY WITH HARRY OSHA, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY, MINFIN OLIJADE ALO, HEAD, EXTERNAL DIVISION, MEA, ANEEO. A. ADESOYE, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY, ECON DIV., MINTRADE, ALL OF WHOM ATTENDED ECA MINISTERIAL ACCRA AS MEMBERS NIGERIAN DELEGATION.

2. ALO OPENED WITH STRONG STATEMENT IN SUPPORT ECA ARGUING NIGERIANS FAVORED DELETION EC ASSOCIATION ISSUE FROM ACCRA AGENDA ONLY IN ORDER ALLOW CONFERENCE
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SUFFICIENT TIME TO DEAL WITH FULL AGENDA STRICTLY ECA ITEMS. THIS SELF- SERVING AND RATHER FAR- FETCHED EXPLANATION OF NIGERIAN TACTICS MAY REFLECT NIGERIAN SENSITIVITY TO AFRICAN CRITICISM OF ITS STRONG- ARM METHODS AT ACCRA AND POSSIBLY EFFORT DIVORCE NIGERIA SOMEWHAT FROM CONTINUED CLOSE LINKAGE WITH EKONGOKI ICNTIATIVE.

3. ALO CONFIRMED THAT NIGERIA REMAINS PREPARED CONSIDER SOME FORM OF ASSOICATION WITH EC PROVIDED EC PREPARED ACCEPT NIGERIAN PRINCIPLES FOR SUCH ARRANGEMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, OSHA SAID NIGERIA WILL ENDORSE LEGON PRINCIPLES AT ABIDJAN AND THE ANGLOPHONESEXPECTED CONSOLIDATE THEIR POSITION ALONG THESE LINES AT ARUSHA AT BEGINNING OF APRIL. AMONG ANGLOPHONES, ONLY GAMBIA HAS DECIDED ACCEPT ASSOCIATION ON YAOUNDE- TYPE BASIS. ADESOYE REITERATED
IN HIS USUAL STRONG TERMS NIGERIA'S
OPPOSITION TO REVERSE PREFERENCES, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS EUROPEAN TRESPASSING ON AFRICA AND MAJOR BARRIER TO DEVELOPMENT OF INTRA- AFRICAN TRADE. BOTH ADESOYE AND ALO STATED NIGERIA'S OPPOSITION TO REVERSE PREFERENCES HAS BEEN FIXED AT HIGHEST LEVEL OF FMG AND NOT NEGOTIABLE. ALO INDICATED THAT EC HAS INFORMED NIGERIANS THAT EC PLANS INCLUDE EXPLICIT STATEMENT THAT ANY PREFERENCES EXTENDED EC CAN BE EXTENDED TO THIRD COUNTRIES. ALO CONTINUED THAT NIGERIA RECOGNIZED THAT POORER FRANCOPHONES WHICH ENDORSED NIGERIAN PRINCIPLES ON EC ASSOCIATION FACED RISKS IN TERMS OF EC AND PARTICULARLY GOF AID.
HE MENTIONED THAT QUESTION OF COMPENSATION WOULD ARISE, BUT OBVIOUSLY DID NOT WISH PURSUE MATTER. ACCORDING OSHA, NIGERIAN VIEW WAS THAT FOG SUPPORT OF RECURRANT BUDGETS CONSTITUED UNSOUND SITUATION AND THAT OTHER ARRANGEMENTS, NOTABLY CLOSE TIES WITH NIGERIA, CONSTITUTED BETTER ALTERNATIVE, EVEN IF IT REQUIRED GREATER AUSTERITY. SPEAKING PRIVATELY, ADESOYE DESCRIBED FRANCOPHONES AS BEING LIKE SPOILED CHILDREN IN MAINTAINING DEPENDENCE OF FOG BUDGET SUPPORT. IN THIS CONNECTION, ALO TOOK SOFTER LINE, INDICATING THAT NIGERIANS HAD NOT YET EFFECTIVELY FOCUSED ON STRATEGY FOR DEALING WITH THIS RISK PROBLEM AT ABIDJAN AND MUST NOW DO SO. ALO CONCLUDED THAT NIGERIA WOULD PREFER FORMATION OF WEST AFRICAN INSTITUTION TO ENGAGE IN NEGOTIATIONS ON EC ASSOCIATION. NIGERIA, HOWEVER, RECOGNIZED THIS APPROACH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAS IMPRACTICAL WITHIN EXISTING TIME FRAME AND THERE-
FORE HOPED FOR DEVELOPMENT UNITED FRONT AT ABIDJAN.

4. ON CEAO, ALO SAID MALI PRESIDENT TRAORE TOLD GENE-
RAL GOWON DURING LATTER' S RECENT VISIT BAMAKO THAT
MALI WOULD ATTEND CEAO MEETING IN ABIDJAN. ACCORDING
ALO, CEAO MEETING SEEN BY NIGERIANS AS USEFUL MEANS
COORDINATE FRANCOPHONE POSITION FOR ABIDJAN BUT THAT
MANY FRANCOPHONES NOT NOW READY SIGN ACCORDS. ONLY
FRANCOPHONES WHICH ATTENDED PREVIOUS BAMAKO MEETING
ARE TO BE INVITED.
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